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LETTER DATED 13 FEBRUARY 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF LATVIA AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Referring to the letter dated 13 December 1991 from the Permanent Representatives of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania addressed to the Secretary-General (S/23287), we have the honour to kindly request that the attached text of the joint communiqué issued on 1 February 1992 in Riga by State delegations of the Republic of Latvia and the Russian Federation on the issue of complete withdrawal of the former Soviet Union's armed forces under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation from the territory of the Republic of Latvia, be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aivars BAUMANIS
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Latvia
to the United Nations

(Signed) Yuli M. VORONTSOV
Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

Communiqué concerning talks between state delegations of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Latvia - Riga, 1 February 1992

As previously agreed, talks between a state delegation of the Russian Federation headed by the Vice-Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation and State Adviser on Legal Affairs, Mr. S. Shakhray, and a state delegation of the Republic of Latvia headed by the Minister of State of the Republic of Latvia, Mr. J. Dinēvičs, were held in Riga on 1 February 1992. The discussions concerned matters relating to the complete withdrawal from the territory of the Republic of Latvia of the armed forces of the former Soviet Union stationed there under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation.

During the talks, the Parties stressed their determination to develop equitable, good-neighbourly and mutually beneficial relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Latvia in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other universally recognized rules of international law, strictly fulfilling their obligations in the framework of the conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the basic provisions of the Treaty on Interstate Relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Latvia. The Parties stressed their willingness to conduct negotiations on a whole range of military, political, economic, humanitarian and other issues, it being understood that any understandings reached between them on those matters would come within the context of action to promote security and confidence in Europe and constructive participation by Russia and Latvia in the furtherance of the all-European process.

The delegation of the Russian Federation emphasized that matters concerning the withdrawal of the armed forces would be resolved in a spirit of respect for the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Latvia and in strict observance of its laws and of the agreements between the Parties. The Latvian delegation confirmed its willingness to respect the interests of the Russian Federation relating to the withdrawal of the armed forces from the territory of Latvia. In this connection, the Parties agreed that the armed forces in question would be regarded as foreign armed forces to be withdrawn from the territory of another sovereign State.

Agreement was reached that the withdrawal of the armed forces stationed in the territory of the Republic of Latvia would begin in March 1992, without an increase in the existing size of these armed forces during the period preceding the withdrawal. The Parties agreed to consider the current talks constituting the beginning of work on a draft agreement between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Latvia regarding the conditions, time-frame and procedure for the systematic withdrawal of armed forces from the territory of Latvia and their legal status during the period of the withdrawal. The

Parties discussed the principles which should lie at the basis of that agreement. They reached agreement that the time-frame procedure and stages for the withdrawal would depend on a number of objective factors, above all such factors as protecting the national security interests of Latvia and Russia, and also guarantees of social welfare for military personnel and members of their families. The Parties agreed that questions of social security for military pensioners would be settled in the near future through negotiations.

The Parties agreed to refrain from unapproved unilateral actions during the period of withdrawal of the armed forces.

The Parties agreed to establish working groups of experts to draft the above-mentioned agreement, which the delegations intend to discuss as soon as possible.

The Russian side recognizes the right of the Republic of Latvia to ownership of the buildings and installations used by the armed forces that were built by the Latvian side before 17 June 1940.

Agreement was reached that the Russian side would regularly inform the Latvian side of the size of the armed forces stationed in the territory of the Republic of Latvia.

The Parties confirmed their agreement regarding the immediate solution of the most urgent issues involved in protecting military units in the territory of Latvia and also regarding the need to discuss conditions for the mutual settlement of accounts.

The Parties agreed that they would determine the procedure for conducting inspections, appoint inspectors and conduct inspections, on a bilateral basis, of establishments in the territory of the Republic of Latvia currently occupied by the armed forces being withdrawn.

The Parties agreed that they would cooperate on matters of environmental protection. The extent of the damage inflicted on the environment is being determined by mutually agreed methods.

The Parties intend to discuss conditions for transfer by the Russian Federation of a certain quantity and certain types of weapons, military hardware and ammunition to the Republic of Latvia.

The parties discussed in detail the question of opening an embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Latvia.

S. SHAKHRAY

J. DINĒVIČS